

CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

Dear All and welcome to the Summer Newsletter.

Such a lot seems to be happening in the Square and Crescent ! Perhaps it is just the signs of Summer that excite me. Recently the centre of interest must surely been the gardens: I do not think they have ever looked more beautiful nor have I ever heard birdsong such as we are hearing each day at present.

It has been a pleasure to see so many people enjoying the gardens, not only from our immediate area but also groups from further afield. We are now trying to find ways for encouraging our visitors to avoid burning our precious grass with their BBQs and to gather up their litter and take it home with them.

I hope that all our members will enjoy the coming months and that we will have a long summer with many balmy evenings to spend in our gardens ... and not forgetting the Summer Party on the 18th of July!

With best wishes,

RUTH ADDISON. *e-mail* fopachair@gmail.com

PLANNING AND CONSERVATION

As many of you will know by now, the controversial Planning and Listed building Application for a major upward extension to the Old Market, an uncompromisingly modern 'glass box' design challenging established Listed Building and Conservation Area policies, was refused by the Planning Committee against the recommendation of both the Case and Conservation Officers. This decision was made in respect of objections from CAG, English Heritage, a range of learned societies and a huge file of letters from local residents. It is likely that there will be an Appeal.

The Committee decided that an application should be made to English Heritage to include the south retaining wall to the Crescent gardens on the Register of Buildings at Risk. The wall is a Grade 2* Listed structure in the care of the Council, and is now so dilapidated that significant sections of the rare vermiculated rendering are being lost. Inclusion on the Register may help to focus attention on the condition of the wall and give FOPA a basis for taking a renovation project further.

Repair and repainting of the Adelaide ramp walls is almost complete. Some of our street lamps are looking in need of a coat of paint, and we shall be pressing the Council to see how this might be done.

The increasing number of empty shops in the town has prompted the Council to implement an excellent project for covering street level windows with photographic murals. We had thought that the four empty shops in Western Road at the top of the Square might become candidates for this, but in the event refitting work is now in hand in three of them.

The various reconstruction projects in St.John's Road seem to be progressing in spite of the recession, and when complete will mark a further major improvement in the regeneration of this street.

We continue to attend Conservation Action Group (CAG) meetings every three weeks on behalf of the four Residents Associations of Brunswick Town. FOPA has undertaken this task for the last ten years and will in August hand over the job to a representative from one of the other groups.

If you have any queries related to Planning and Conservation, please drop me a line.

RICHARD HAWKES *e-mail* palmcourt@mistral.co.uk

GARDENS REPORT

Once again June is here, and the roses are in glorious bloom in Palmeira and Adelaide. Once again, warm sunshine has brought many to picnic in our gardens. Once again, we observe brown patches as some people carelessly allow BBQs to scorch the grass. Your Committee has considered various ways of trying to alleviate this perennial problem, and is likely to recommend the use of signs (as practised on Hove Lawns).

Following the tree plantings in March, Southern Water offered to instal a water point in Palmeira Garden. The FOPA Committee accepted the offer and will be paying the variable water charges from FOPA resources. Susie de Castilho will be in charge of this project. The water point will initially be used to keep the bird bath topped up, a task which has been taken on until now by local residents (notably Peter Simpson) hauling water in buckets from their households. The water point will also be useful in helping to irrigate the recently planted trees and shrubs in times of drought.

Graham's summer meadow beneath the Eleagnus hedge is coming on well in Adelaide garden. Ox eye daisies and cowslips are being introduced to encourage biological diversity, which in turn helps to sustain our local songbirds which have been singing so sweetly during the spring. You will have noticed that the gardeners have allowed the grass banks to grow while the crocus and daffodil bulbs regenerate for next spring.

On 14 May our FOPA Chair Ruth Addison, Susie de Castilho and I joined with Geoff and Graham (our Council gardeners) for an inspection walk. Our principal focus was on the newly planted trees, some of which appeared to be struggling, but our gardeners and Di Morgan (our trees adviser) are sanguine on their prospects for survival. We also exchanged ideas relating to the paths and seating arrangements in Adelaide Garden. Watch this space!

GEORGE GWYER

SUMMER PARTY TICKETS

It is time to buy your **SUMMER PARTY** Tickets for
SATURDAY 18th JULY 2009, IN THE ADELAIDE CRESCENT GARDENS
from 3.00 to 6.00 pm

Tickets are £10.00 for each adult while children aged under 10 are admitted free. We will provide wine and soft drinks together with a large selection of delicious finger foods.

Bring along your friends and enjoy the company of neighbours in our beautiful gardens. Please buy your tickets in advance to allow us to plan the catering – tickets will not be sold on the day.

Tickets from Sheena Cox, Patio Flat, 10 Adelaide Crescent, Hove, BN3 2JE, phone 01273 203162 or send a Self Addressed Envelope with your money and order. Last year the party was a great success – the picture on the right recalls the happy event.



SHEENA COX

CAR CLUBS – SHOULD WE SUPPORT ONE?

Susie de Castilho investigated car clubs on our behalf. There are three to choose from. Typical costs are £50-60 per year (negotiable) plus around £4-5 per hour, £24 per day, £165 per week. The charges cover insurance and petrol for the first 50 miles or so (plus around 24p per mile thereafter) – very modest compared to the full cost of owning and using a car. More information from Susie de Castilho, smgb@1234change.co.uk, or hear about it at the Open Meeting on July 4th.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH - LOCAL ACTION TEAM (LAT)

Susan Hunter continues to keep an eye on the Neighbourhood watch on our behalf. In general, the community police prefer to be given a list of up to three topics to be addressed by them as a matter of priority. Issues selected by LAT at the last meeting were to help rough sleepers into shelters, problems around Western Road/Farman Street and holding a cycling information day. These are the results:

- Action Days: the police held two action days to stop cyclists using the sidewalks; the presence of a policeman acted as deterrent but cyclists tended to return afterwards (perhaps because there is no safe alternative for them);
- Rough Sleepers: following consultations in the area, traders now report the presence of rough sleepers in their doorways, making it easier for the police to encourage them to move into shelters. This problem remains a priority.

According to PC Sarah Thurley, there has been a slight increase in burglaries in the Brunswick Square area, affecting mainly premises at lower ground-floor level and where communal doors had been left open.

The outcome of the next meeting of LAT, held at 19.15 on the 8th of June at the Cornerstone, will be reported at our Open Meeting on July 4th. LAT meetings are open to the public and anyone is welcome to attend.

ST WANNA'S CONVENIENCE STORE

At last, we again have a neighbourhood convenience store in Palmeira! After a long wait, the former NewsStop has reopened as St Wanna's at 71 Western Road. It is brightly lit and its manager, Amanuel Yousef, is eager for advice on what lines to stock to suit your needs, from newspapers through snacks and groceries to household necessities. Drop in or phone 01273 747 395. St Wanna is a martyr revered in the Coptic Church, believed to respond to lost causes. Opening hours are from 6.00 am to midnight, seven days a week – that's convenience!

MEMBERSHIP & TREASURY

Just 15 out of our 120-odd members have not yet renewed their subscriptions for 2009. They still receive our Newsletter and it would help and save trouble over a relatively trivial matter if they could set up a **standing order** to pay dues automatically. Standing Orders should be timed for payment on January 1st each year. FOPA's bank details are shown below.

KATHERINE SIMPSON

**Please address all correspondence to the Association to:
The Chairman, FOPA c/o 10 Palmeira Square, Hove, BN3 2JB**

WEBSITES: We wish to keep our FOPA and GARDEN websites live and up-to-date. We welcome, on an ongoing basis, any contributions of general interest to Palmeira Square, Adelaide Crescent, the gardens and our neighbourhood. Please email any notices to webmaster Tim Kirkup at timkirkup@fopa.co.uk and pictures of the gardens (in electronic form) to George Gwyer at ggwyer@googlemail.com.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: £5.00 per household (annually)

Please ensure that your subscription payments are up to date. Our banking details are:

HSBC, 125 Church Road, Hove BN3 2AN Sort Code: 40-25-03 Account Number: 81492357

Account Name: The Friends of Palmeira and Adelaide

In reviewing any Standing Orders, please adjust payment date, if necessary, to 1st January each year.

KATHERINE SIMPSON (Katherine.simpson@virgin.net) Treasurer and Membership Secretary