

THE
MONTPELIER
AND
CLIFTON HILL

ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER

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40th anniversary
double issue

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Boards banned
Royal Alex victory
Conservation awards
plus planning round-up



Boards to be banned

A ban on estate agents boards throughout the conservation area is in prospect following a public hearing at Hove Town Hall in March. Currently estate agents' boards are only banned in Montpelier Crescent and Vernon Terrace.

The council first suggested stricter controls on boards in March 2008. At the time the estate agents in the city supported a ban. They said that their business was increasingly being done on-line and boards were now pulling in fewer buyers. They were expensive to install and remove.

The estate agents said voluntary controls would quickly break down because it would not be obeyed by out of town agents, so they preferred a compulsory ban, known as a "regulation 7 direction".

The council consulted the Conservation Advisory Group, which said they wanted to see a blanket ban in the central conservation areas, where many houses are in multiple occupation. A blanket ban also has the advantage that it is easy to understand and simple to enforce.

So the council consulted on a blanket ban, which meant banning the boards throughout the Montpelier and Clifton Hill Conservation area.

Although the blanket ban was widely welcomed the recession had begun to bite and house prices started to fall. The estate agents changed their mind. They now wanted every possible customer.

Because of the estate agents' objection there was a hearing in March. Roger Amerena represented the association at the hearing. The council also mounted an effective case in favour of a ban.

We stressed the importance of views in and out of the conservation area and pointed out that almost all the housing in our conservation area is terraced. This increases the visual impact of the signs.

We said that although estate agents' boards are temporary, their presence is permanent. A single board may be around for six to 12 months, but as soon as one goes another appears. During the week of the hearing there were eight estate agents' boards in Montpelier Street, which has about 45 houses. And a further six on the west side of Powis Road between the Grade 1 church of St Michael's and the junction with Clifton Hill. The inspector later visited the area to see the impacts of the boards for himself.

As we go to press the inspector has yet to publish his final report. However, sources close to the deadline say that he will approve the council's ban with some minor modifications. The boards will be banned throughout our conservation area.

Estate agents' boards on commercial properties are not affected by this ban.

**THE
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AND
CLIFTON HILL
ASSOCIATION**

The current MCHA committee is **Mick Hamer**, Chair, **Brian Brooks**, Vice Chairman, **Chris Jackson**, Honorary Treasurer, **Jim Gowans**, Honorary Secretary, **Alan Legg**, Membership secretary, **Ian Thorburn**, **Richard Killick**, **Gabi Tubbs**, **Graham Towers** and **Lori Pinkerton-Rolet**

The co-opted members are **Carol Dyhouse** and **Corinne Attwood**.

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS: Single membership is £10 and couples £15, corporate £30.



Admiral Codrington plaque

A blue plaque commemorating Admiral Sir Edward Codrington, the commander of the coalition fleets at the Battle of Navarino, was unveiled by His Excellency the Greek Ambassador on 29th September. The plaque is at No 140 Western Road, the home of Codrington for several years in the 1820s and 1830s.

The event was the culmination of research carried out by MCHA Committee Member Mick Hamer, which he outlined in an article appearing in the spring 2007 edition of this newsletter. The event, attended by the Lady Mayor of Brighton and Hove Anne Norman and the Leader of the Council Mary Mears, was hosted by MCHA Chairman Roger Amerena. There were also representatives from local amenity groups and the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich.

After the unveiling in Western Road a reception for over fifty guests was held in the garden of Montpellier Hall. Speeches were made by the Ambassador, the Mayor, our Chairman and by MCHA member Admiral Sir Peter Woodhead, all of whom referred to the significance of Codrington as a national and international figure.

In Greece Codrington is a hero whose victory over the combined Turkish and Egyptian fleets on 20th October 1827 helped the Greeks throw off the shackles of Ottoman rule and establish their independence as a nation shortly afterwards.

The Greek community of Brighton and Hove generously provided food for the reception and on a day, which coincidentally, was the birthday of another naval hero, Lord Nelson, the sun shone with Hellenic intensity and those of a Byronic disposition contemplated his line "Fill high the bowl with Samian wine!" **JAG**



From broadsides to backsides

When guests take a seat on the bench or chairs pictured they may not be aware that their "derriere" or should it be said more appropriately "stern" is being supported by teak that came from the Royal Navy warship HMS Ganges.

The items of garden furniture are part of a set belonging to a MCHA member and whilst the Battle of Navarino of 1827 is remembered above it is worth noting that HMS Ganges was launched in the following year and was in service as a ship of the line and training ship until it was broken up in 1932.

The furniture was designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens and sold by Heals of London and carries a small metal plaque bearing the name HMS Ganges. **JAG**