



Roaming round Kempton

Roger Wheeler – *The roaming pen...*

Its not very often one gets the chance to congratulate Brighton & Hove Council, in fact I can't remember the last time, but they have done something right for once.

At long last double parking has been made illegal, yes its true, don't believe me then take a look at www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/parking; the wording is simple and here is

The Double Parking and Dropped Footway parking enforcement is part of the 2004 Traffic Management Act which allows the local authority (Brighton & Hove City Council) to enforce parking. This part was agreed by the Environment Cabinet on the 30th July 2009 and will come into effect in the next few weeks. Prior to the full enforcement there will be a Notice placed to advertise the date of full enforcement. It will also be the intention to issue warning notices for a period of seven days advising that a Penalty Charge Notice could be issued if parked in this manner again.

And even on a quiet Sunday morning in a leafy road in East Brighton, lo and behold a car parked on double yellow lines got a ticket. So the message is now becoming pretty clear, if you have a car, park it legally.

By the way did you know that there is talk about means testing to qualify for bus passes, its costing too much apparently.

Most large cities in the country were formed by the

slow amalgamation of small villages that grew and grew until they finally all joined up and made the town or city that we see today. This really didn't happen in Brighton, ok we had Hove, but that was always physically joined to Brighton. But today there appears to be more and more little communities or villages springing up all over the place. We have Preston, Patcham, Wilmington, George Street, Powis and Montpelier and now we have news of the latest. Let's call it Church Place Village, for that is where it is. Church Place runs from Eastern Road to Bristol Gardens, where it becomes Manor Road.. In this short stretch of road we have three new independent businesses just starting up.

It all started a year ago when Chris Gull, orthodontist and tooth whitener to the stars, hung up his drill and sold his wonderful art gallery cum dental practice in Ship Street and turned his attention to cakes and coffee in the form of Hudson & Bridges on the corner of Church Place and Eastern Road.

Chris and his partner Gary were obviously inspired by Mrs Bridges and Mr Hudson, immortalised in the BBC-TV soap Upstairs Downstairs – although who assumes which role they are reticent to say. This thriving little business is going great guns, serving a mean cup of coffee seven days a week to the discerning of Sussex Square and its environs. They also offer a wide range of sandwiches and pastries as well as fresh bread, all supplied by small local



producers. They don't actually cook anything on the premises, it really is very small, but the patrons that we saw one Saturday lunchtime were obviously enjoying the food.

The boys have big plans afoot; we can reveal exclusively that they have just acquired the lease of the old 'I Go Inn' pub in Rock Street, which closed down a few weeks ago. We are holding our combined breath for an announcement of their plans for an exciting new venue, just where we need it.

Just next door is an intriguing new card shop, YCUK, although the name isn't visible, it's basically a wholesale card and gift suppliers with a retail



counter. Selling all sorts of greeting cards and unusual things, it opened in

November and Ian, the proprietor, says that business is good despite the recession, although he admits that retail is not good anywhere at the moment.

Just opposite is Kemp Town Flowers, a four month old business run by Tina, a member of the Lee Hire motor business family, which helpfully owns the premises. Opening a flower shop is another very risky venture these days but Tina says that business is OK. Not many years ago Rock Street, just down the road from Church Place was a thriving community of shops and attractive pubs, its now completely dead. These entrepreneurs are to be congratulated and supported, lets hope that their businesses go from strength to strength and we have a whole new 'village'.

Take it easy out there.

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