



## The Roaming Pen... - dries off

**Recently I have been congratulating the City Council for some good work, I knew it couldn't continue. Without any advance warning the free swimming for over 60's has been cancelled with effect from 31st July.**

Of course it is essential that in the times of financial recession we need to save money wherever we can and so this very small benefit was an easy target, it is a pity. One of my main issues about all the benefits given to our more mature fellow citizens is the fact that the providers of the benefits – Brighton & Hove Buses, the operators of the swimming pools etc., pass the full charge onto the council. It would cost them nothing to pass on a reduced cost. Every time someone uses their bus pass - £1.80 is charged to the council, the buses have to run whether there are concessionary passengers or not, so why not reduce the cost to – say – just 50p per trip.

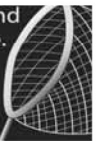
I also hear that B&H Buses are going to be introducing a form of Oyster card within a year or so, this is great news, no more fiddling around with actual cash when getting on a bus, just swipe the card. It's been working in London for some years and the Brighton version is going to be a new and improved version. This needs to come with a health warning as I have the cynical view that they will increase the fares at the same time

The Council are offering free, health checks to any resident

between the ages of 40 and 74, so long as you are NOT being treated by your G.P. for Diabetes, Heart Disease, High Blood Pressure or High Cholesterol. This also includes taking medication for these conditions. The Health checks will be continuing until March 2011. So sign up and get checked, you know it makes sense. And whilst talking about health have you noticed the number of new gyms opening all over town, the latest is called simply 'The Gym'. They have spent almost £1m on redeveloping the old dolphinarium which was part of the Sea Life Centre. This huge section of the building had been derelict for ten years and has now been given a fantastic revamp. If gyms are your thing – it was mine once – now you have even more choice with six or seven all in the centre of the City. This latest addition, which opened in June, has the novel approach of offering a very simple membership of £15.00 a month with no contact or commitment, you simply pay your monthly fee and you are a member. You can even have just a day membership for £5.00. Plus it's open 24 hours a day seven days a week. They have eight gyms around the country with three more about to open. I wish them well but wonder just how much demand there is for gyms, we shall see. I nearly had apoplexy when I saw that the travellers were back on the Kemp Town slopes. They had ripped up the large wooden posts and parked on the grass. I happened to see one of our leading councillors and asked what the

From Old Steine to Boundary Rd; and from Freshfield St to Marine Parade. An interesting market to reach.

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official line was. All she could say was that there seemed to be a breakdown in communication between the council and the police. The travellers are not a priority for the police, nor for the council. But who pays to clear up after them, we do of course. If you feel strongly about this recurrent problem get in touch with your local councillor, that's about all any of us can do it seems. And so to the trains. I have recently discovered Passenger Focus; this is the passenger watchdog, an independent public body set up by the Government. Their remit is to protect the interests of Britain's rail passengers, England's bus passengers outside of London, coach passengers on scheduled domestic services and tram passengers. In one form or another there have been organisations like this since 1948 but the whole thing was reorganised in 2005 and Passenger Focus was born. This does seem to be an excellent body, keeping a close eye on all the forms of public transport and endeavours to ensure that the companies maintain the highest possible standards. You can find them at [www.pasengerfocus.org.uk](http://www.pasengerfocus.org.uk), it's worth taking a look. They are happy to listen to all comments from you and me - the travelling public and it seems that we are travelling more and more these days. Train travel is increasing as is bus and tram, where they are lucky enough to have trams.

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## The Kemptown Society in association with Brighton Early Music Festival presents ... Thomas Read Kemp 1782 - 1844. A day of celebration

**SATURDAY 25 SEPTEMBER 2010**

**A GUIDED TOUR OF THE KEMP TOWN ESTATE.** Introductory talk by Dr Sue Berry followed by a tour of the area including the Garden Enclosures, the Esplanade and some interiors on the Estate.

Meet at **THE ROCK INN, 7 Rock Street** 11.00 – 1.00 £10 including Coffee

**SYMPOSIUM: THE LIFE, TIMES & ACHIEVEMENTS OF THOMAS KEMP** Mr Paul Phillips: Introduction and brief historic setting. Dr Sue Berry: Thomas Read Kemp MP, Preacher and Gentleman Development. Mr Michael Osborne: Thomas Read Kemp – the Evolution of a Developer. Prof Stephen Adutt – Kemp's Developments and Architectural Design Today.

**ST GEORGE'S CHURCH, KEMPTOWN** 2.00 – 5.00 £15 including Afternoon Tea

**THOMAS KEMP'S MUSICAL SOIREE.** Thomas Kemp invites you to his salon at St George's Church for a concert by candlelight of music from the Regency period, including Mozart, Haydn, Beethoven, Schubert & Thomas Arne. Performed by Miss Avril Fredrick, Soprano, Miss Camilla Scarlett, violin & Miss Amy de Sybel, fortepiano.

**ST GEORGE'S CHURCH, KEMPTOWN** 7.45 – 9.00 £15 with a glass of Regency Punch

**THOMAS KEMP'S SUPPER PARTY.** Relax with more drinks and enjoy a Regency style supper while the musicians play lighter repertoire to entertain Mr Kemp and his guests. Supper must be booked in advance. Red and white wine and soft drinks available to purchase on the night

**ST GEORGE'S CHURCH, KEMPTOWN** 9.00 – 10.30 £10 Supper, excluding drinks

(created by M. Trevor Bradford, Head Chef, The Café in the Crypt)

**SPECIAL DAY TICKET FOR ALL EVENTS INCLUDING SUPPER £45.00**

### HOW TO BOOK

Tickets may be purchased in advance from **Dome Box Office, Mon-Sat 10am – 6 pm**

**New Road, Brighton BN1 1UG. TELEPHONE 01273 709709.**

Ticket may be reserved and paid for within four working days. There is a £2.25 transaction fee for telephone books.

One charge per booking. By POST – Please make cheques payable to the Brighton Dome and Festival Ltd and send to: Brighton Dome Ticket Office, 29 New Road, Brighton BN1 1UG. No SAE needed.

There is £2.25 transaction fee for postal bookings. One charge per booking.

**ON LINE - [www.bremf.org.uk/kemp](http://www.bremf.org.uk/kemp) There is no transaction charge for personal bookings.**

