



## NEWSLETTER 329 April 2019

### Society AGM: 18 March 2019

The following were newly elected to the committee of the Society. Thanks to all of them for agreeing to support the Society so actively:

Annabel Watson (Clarence Square)  
Nigel Massey (Clarence Square)

The other elected members of the Committee are:  
Mary Hunter (Regency Square)  
Julie Wright (Stone Street)

As well as the three officers listed below

#### Society Contacts

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Warm thanks were expressed to two committee members who were standing down: Ros Boulden and Paula Brooks. Best wishes were also sent to Paula following her collision with a white van. The accident has left Paula incapacitated for several months.

Thank you also to all those businesses who donated prizes for the very successful raffle:

Artists' Residence (Regency Square)  
BA i360 (Kings Road)  
Brighton Beach Club (Kings Road)  
Brighton House Hotel (Regency Square)  
Compass Point Restaurant (Kings Road)  
Hotel Pelirocco (Regency Square)  
Marks and Spencer (Western Road)  
Regency Restaurant (Kings Road)  
Waitrose (Western Road)  
West Beach Restaurant (Lower Kings Road)

### Regency Square: Myths and Misinformation

Gill Wales gave a myth-busting talk about 'facts' we thought we knew about Regency Square: the Regency Tavern was not built in the 18<sup>th</sup> century but in the late 1820s; the military encampment of 1793 on Belle Vue Field (aka Regency Square) stretched from Cannon Place to Hove Street - fourteen regiments of men, their families and their provisions would not have fitted in the three gardens of the modern square.

And most importantly for Society members, Gill established that Regency Square is overwhelmingly a residential square with over 200 households living here.

### Dog free area

The members present at the AGM agreed that the north garden in Regency Square should be kept as a dog-free area. What do you think?

There are many ways you can contact the Society:

Via the website and the Facebook site (see panel left)

Via  @RegencySquareAS

### Clarence Square

Nigel Massey is new to the Society's committee, but he has already done sterling work in Clarence Square: following years of night-time disturbance from youths gathering in Clarence Square it is Nigel who now locks the gate to the gardens at night. This has reduced the problem greatly.

As Clarence Square backs on to Western Road, the north side of the square has been plagued by fly tipping from shops and builders. Nigel has liaised closely with the City Council and his work is showing good results.

The Society has no representative (and very few members) in Russell Square. If you live in the square and would like to be co-opted to the Society's committee, please contact one of the officers.

### Regency Square Regeneration

Monies from the revenue of the BAi360 were due to come on-stream from the City Council in September 2018. No money has been forthcoming, and the City Council has not updated the Society on what is happening. It was agreed that the Society would enter a Freedom of Information request to the City Council asking for clarification of the situation.

The Regency Square gardens are not only a major 'green lung' for residents but are used heavily by tourists visiting the BAi360. Demands on a space mean more expensive upkeep and that money is now urgently needed.

### Secure motorbike spaces

Motorcyclists can now lock their machines to the newly installed anchor-points at the south-east corner of Regency Square. The Society campaigned for these anchor-points to help stop motorbikes parking on the hard standing of the gardens.

Progress is being made. There have been times since the new anchor points were installed when there have been no motorcycles parked in the garden.

## Now we are 40

The Society is now in its 40<sup>th</sup> year. How should we all celebrate?

- Would you be interested in bringing your picnic outdoors in one of our lovely squares?
- Which square would you like to picnic in?
- Do you have any other ideas for such an event?

## Brighton Half-Marathon

How do they do it? Wonderful to see all those hardy souls running – and their hardy supporters braving the cold winds to cheer them on. The marathon is fun, and half a marathon is certainly better than no marathon at all.

But, what on earth made the Council think that it was acceptable to suddenly and unannounced, turn Preston Street into a two-way street? This was highly dangerous, above all to pedestrians and cyclists who had no idea of what was going on.



Cars turning left into Preston Street would have given everyone using the street a bit of an unwelcome surprise. February 2019.



## ... and talking of Preston Street

Would you like the Committee of the Society to approach the City Council in an attempt to improve the obstacle course that is the Preston Street pavements?



## Planning

72-73 Western Road (backing on to Stone Street) BH2019/00306: There are plans to reduce the amount of retail space in the former Jamie Oliver shop. This would leave room for four studio flats on the Stone Street side of the property. A great improvement for Stone Street: more local homes and what looks like a good design. The Society has supported this application.

26 Russell Square BH2018/03316 Application to turn the property into a house in multiple occupation (HMO). In effect this is a retrospective application. There have been no complaints to the Society about this property. The Society will make no comment.

17 Stone Street BH2019/00106: permission has been granted for a four-storey building which will provide more residential housing.

The Society is pleased to see that gradually retail space is being reduced (but not removed) from Western Road. It is hoped that smaller and perhaps local retailers will benefit from this move. More importantly, more city-centre residential accommodation is being made available. Stone Street will be revitalised.

## That locked-out feeling

We can all walk freely through the Churchill Square car park from West Street to home. For at least 100 years, local residents could walk freely from home to West Street.

Recently the west gate giving access to the car park (as well as one in Russell Road) were permanently locked. Getting from home to West Street ... and getting to the Post Office ... involved climbing up to Western Road and then going back down again (inside the shopping centre for the PO).

The Society asked Mark Buchanan-Smith, manager of Churchill Square, why this had happened, and could it be reversed. Three committee members met Mr Buchanan-Smith on 17 March and walked round the car parks with him. The message was that the gates were emergency exits only and should not have been open in the first place. He explained that it was “dangerous for pedestrians to walk between cars”. Presumably this did not apply to motorists who get out of their cars and become pedestrians!

We managed to persuade Mr Buchanan-Smith that the entrance from Russell Road to the lift leading into Debenhams was a very safe route. Mr Buchanan-Smith is now “considering” the possibility of re-opening these gates

UPDATE: The gate from Cannon Place seems to have been re-opened, but the notice “No public access” is still on the gate. Let’s hope it stays that way.

