



NEWSLETTER 265 November 2011

A letter from the Society Chairman

Dear fellow members

After much reflection I have decided not to stand for re-election to the committee at the AGM in March next year.

I was first elected back in 1979, when the Society was set up. I have been on the committee continuously since then.

It has been a wonderful experience. I have met many interesting people and made some good friends. I hope that the Society has benefitted our neighbourhood during that time.

I am now approaching my 65th birthday and embarking on a new career as a grandparent. So I think it is time to hand over to others to carry on the Society's work.

I will of course continue as a member and look forward to meeting old and new friends at future Society events.

With very best wishes to those who continue the Society's work,

Roger Hinton
November 2011

Other Changes in the Committee

Society secretary, Paul Smith has resigned because of pressure of work. Paul runs the Regency Tavern and has found that his commitments there have made it impossible to continue on the Society committee.

Diana Dunn and Ros Boulden have both resigned as committee members after many years of valuable work for the Society.

Ros represented us on the Conservation Advisory Group and kept us informed about planning applications in our area. More recently she has co-ordinated the distribution of the newsletter and organised outings to the Little Theatre.

Diana's most notorious activity occurred several years ago when our streets were littered with bags of rubbish. She hired a truck and, dressed as a rat, she persuaded us to collect all the rubbish from the area and dump it on the steps of Brighton Town Hall. More recently she has organised the planting of bulbs in the squares, and helped with the design of the new web site.

Rhidian Hughes has also announced that he will not be standing for re-election at the next AGM. Because of a new job he is now finding it difficult to attend meetings. Rhidian served for several years as the Society's secretary. He also organised the successful bid for a grant to pay for the heritage board which will shortly be installed in Regency Square.



**Roger Hinton,
chairman
since 2000,
will stand
down next
March.**

Photo: Rebecca Webber

Help needed!

As a result the committee has only six members including two who will be standing down in March after the AGM.

So we are looking for new members. It would be useful if at least some could be co-opted onto the committee to ensure a smooth handover in March.

What do committee members do?

The committee meets once a month. Meetings are held at 7:30pm, usually on a Monday.

Some members take on responsibility for ongoing tasks such as reviewing planning applications, editing the newsletter and managing the web site. Others volunteer for specific things such as organising the AGM or talking to Council officers about particular problems as they arise.

The Chairman's role currently involves co-ordinating what everyone is doing and running the committee meetings to ensure that everyone has their say and clear decisions are made.

The Secretary prepares and agenda for each meeting and writes the minutes.

None of this is set in stone and a new committee may well make changes to the way the Society is run. If you think you might be interested in getting involved, please get in touch (see Contacts box).

You would be welcome to come to a forthcoming meeting if you wanted to get an idea of how the committee operates. The next one will be at 7:30 pm on 12 December. Contact the chairman or treasurer if you are interested.

Society Contacts:

Chairman: Roger Hinton,

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Treasurer: Trix Webber,

✉ tew100@hotmail.co.uk ☎ 01273 321858

www.regencybrighton.com

Garden improvements

Plans for improvements to the gardens in Regency Square are moving forward.

Volunteers have already started pruning and tidying the plants in the top garden. We are looking for more help in the coming months (see below) so start searching for your gardening gloves.

The new flower bed in the centre of the top garden will be dug and planted early in the New Year.

There will be two new benches in the middle garden, one to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. The old benches will be repaired and moved to the top garden.

The unsightly dog bins will be removed shortly. Dog waste can now be placed in the normal litter bins.

The railings will be painted by community service workers in March or April next year.

Wild flowers will be sown in the bank at the north end of the middle garden later this month.

Can you help?

At 10:30 am on Wednesday 30th November, we will start planting wild flowers and sowing seeds on the bank at the top of the central garden in Regency Square. A Council gardener will be in charge but we need lots of volunteers to help. Tools will be provided; bring some work gloves if you've got them.

For more information contact Duncan Cameron

✉ duncan.g.cameron@googlemail.com ☎ 07810 39 34 75

No north east exit

We asked the Council to provide disabled access to the top garden via the gate in the north east corner. Currently it is locked and only used for mowers.

Unfortunately it can't be done: the footpath outside the gate is too narrow. It would be an unsafe exit because of the traffic passing nearby.

There is level access to the top garden in the north west corner.

We are now asking for a notice on the path leading to the north east gate to warn those already in the garden that there is no exit.

Gating the underpass?

Residents in Abbots in Regency Square have asked the Council for overnight closure of the passage which links the car park to the beach.

They are concerned it is being used by rough sleepers and drug users, and also as a urinal. Late night revellers congregate on the lower seafront nearby, creating noise.

Have you had any experience of these problems? Do you support the idea of the passage being gated overnight? Let us know your views.

Don't fence them in!

Dog owners who exercise their pets in Regency Square want to let them off the lead and have asked the Council to fence in the middle garden.

The Society does not support this idea. We believe that the middle and lower gardens should be not be fenced in for the benefit of one specific group.

Our plans for improving the gardens (described elsewhere in this issue) assume that these areas will be used freely for a wide range of activities.

The top green is fenced to keep dogs out so that parents can allow young children to play safely on the grass. This is good sense given the health risks caused by dog waste. However, the rest of the gardens should be open for all to use.

Crime figures on the move

Crime figures from our local PCSO for August, September and early October give mixed messages.

Violence, street drinking, rough sleeping, urinating and rowdiness are all on the decline. Theft was significantly higher than usual in September, with 5 incidents in our area.

Burglary, drug abuse, vehicle crime and noise were all pretty low or non-existent during the period.

Obeying orders

The property at 43 Regency Square, pictured in our last issue, is now clothed in scaffolding. This is presumably in response to the Council's enforcement order requiring repairs to the façade.

Binflation warning!

A trial of communal re-cycling bins is underway in the Brunswick and Adelaide area. Existing weekly kerbside collections using small boxes are being discontinued. Ugly communal bins will replace them, talking up additional parking spaces.

If the trial is successful we can probably expect the same in our area. Why does the Council force property owners to conserve and improve the appearance of our fine squares, only to litter them with ugly roadside bins?

Dates for your diary:

Wednesday 30th November



Volunteers needed to help with planting in Regency Square from 10:30am. (See article on this page.)

Wednesday 21st December



Pre-Christmas social: your committee will be having an informal get-together in the Regency Tavern from 8pm. Please join us – all members and friends welcome.

Sunday 1st January



The legendary Society breakfast starts at 10am in the Regency Restaurant. Join your neighbours to welcome the New Year with anything from a coffee to the "full English".

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