



NEWSLETTER 286

February 2014

24th March AGM, 7.30pm

Come along to the Metropole Hotel at 7.30 on Monday 24th March for the AGM. Guest speaker will be the former Chair of Brighton Little Theatre in Clarence Gardens. He will talk about the history of the building and of the theatre company. The talk (and questions) will be followed by refreshments and raffle. The evening will end with the formal business of the AGM.

Not everything the Committee does for the Society can be included in the Newsletter. Come along and find out more. Ask questions. All welcome at the meeting. A good opportunity to renew your membership or to join for the first time.

The Committee is not proposing any increase in membership for 2015. However, if you receive your Newsletter on paper, could you consider receiving it by e-mail? This will save either postage or the shoe leather and the time of the volunteer who delivers locally.

24th March 2.00pm

There are still tickets for a guided tour followed by afternoon tea at the Metropole Hotel. £12.00. Contact Julie White for info and tickets:
☎ 07540874455 ✉ jcw40@aol.com

25th April - Meal at Casalingo

Committee member Angelo Martinoli has generously offered a 50% discount for a RSAS meal on Friday 25 April. Contact Suzanne (see below) for details.

The Regency Tavern Proudly presents...

David Rumelle & Jerome Lloyd in 'A Talent To Amuse' featuring the works of Noel Coward on Sunday 2nd March 2014 starts at 6pm. This is the second in a series that celebrates the work of the musical satirists.

Society Contacts:

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Secretary: Suzanne Hinton

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Web site: www.regencybrighton.com

Tates Garden Centres Club

Tates Garden Centres are offering a loyalty card to individuals. The card is worth 10% off your purchases. On two weekends a year, there will be up to 30% reductions. Please contact Suzanne (see above) for details.

The Society will also join in order to get the best deals for plants for the three gardens in the area.

Speaking of which

Look out for the Council rotavators which will be preparing the ground for the hedges to be planted to disguise the ugly walls between the gardens in Regency Square.

In the southern-most garden, sedums will be planted experimentally. These will cover the inappropriate and ankle-breaking cobbles in that area.

Postponed ... again!

The planning application for a renovated cottage in Stone Street and a student residence in Castle Street is still not scheduled to come before the full Planning Committee of the City Council. This appears to be because the developers continue to tweak their plans.

The good news is that the developers seem to have made the site secure against squatters. The bad news is that the buildings are decaying rapidly as they are largely open to the particularly nasty elements which we are experiencing at the moment.

Non-news in Brief

- The final resting place of the communal recycling bins has not yet been determined by the Council.
- The white car park sign is still there, still unsuitable big and white.
- The composting bins have not yet arrived.
- The City Council has spent a great deal of money lowering the kerb on the north-east corner of Regency Square. This is to be applauded for the sake of disabled residents and visitors. However, the gates themselves still stand as open as ever.

We have Heritage

Thanks not only to the brains but also the brawn of two committee members, the Heritage board is now ready to be installed. The brain-power all went into devising the text, checking the proofs, inspecting the construction of the stand etc. The brawn went into transporting the board and stand from Henfield to Brighton at no cost to the RSAS.

A prominent local resident has been invited to perform an “unveiling” ceremony. The City Council will be installing the board in the top garden of Regency Square in the very near future.

As there was some short-fall in the funding for the board, which deals exclusively with Regency Square, the Committee decided that the money would be taken from the Society’s Regency Square Improvement Fund and not from the General Fund.

Where is it?

Take a minute to look at our website History page:

<http://regencybrighton.com/history/>

You will find an early 20th Century painting called *Near Russell Square*. Brighton Art Gallery would love to know if some eagle-eyed RSAS member can spot where in our area the painter was standing when he painted the scene.

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The West Pier Project

Cllr Jason Kitkat came to the February Committee meeting of the RSAS. Cllr Kitkat confirmed to the Committee that the City Council is in negotiation with the freeholder of Nos. 14,15 and 19 Regency Square with a view to renewing its lease on these West Pier Project houses. Many of the Committee consider that the Square cannot absorb such a large hostel of this nature.

Cllr Kitkat told the Committee that the interim Head of Housing is undertaking a complete review of hostel policy in the city. He then outlined the new bodies responsible for care and supported living in the city. It was his personal opinion that no more hostels would be put in the RSAS area. The Committee stressed that businesses in particular were suffering from the anti-social behaviour of some of the residents of the hostels.

The Committee will be writing to several councillors and Council officers, outlining the Committee’s views. They will also arrange a meeting with Cllr Bill Randall (Chair of the Housing Committee) and Angela Smithers (Head of Housing) to discuss the present and future situations.

Please do make your feelings known about the hostels in Regency Square. Do they affect you in any way? Contact Trix Webber (details on first page), or write via the “contact” page of the Website. Even better, come along to the AGM on 24th March.



The above BBC photos show how much of the West Pier has been lost in the last month

i360

On February 10th Trix Webber and Nigel Rose attended a meeting set up by Roger Hinton, Chair of the Regency Society, at which Jason Kitkat talked about the loan of £36 million which the Council is proposing to make to complete the funding of the i360. If the loan is approved, work on the i360 will start in the next few months. The Council will make a final decision in early March. As the Green Party does not have an overall majority, approval for the loan is dependent on support from Conservative councillors. If you want to make your views known, the email addresses of these councillors are as follows. We were convinced by the business plan and have written in support. Others, however, are worried about the financial risk involved.

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