



NEWSLETTER 309 January 2017

A date for your diary

The AGM of the Society will be held in the Metropole Hotel on Monday 20th March at 7.30pm.

Our guest speaker at the beginning of the evening will be Paul Campbell, Project Manager for the open spaces strategy at the City Council. He should have some fascinating insights into how the city is managing projects with reduced budgets and how the Society's plans fit in to citywide improvements of green spaces.

... and on that topic

Society Chair, Trix Webber writes:

Plans for the regeneration of Regency Square are progressing well. We have obtained advance funding for a landscape architect to draw up a detailed master plan, which will include new hard landscaping, garden design and planting as well as maintenance and management of the garden.

Work on this will begin in the next week or so. The aims, vision and business plan for the regeneration will be available on the Society's website later this month. We will be seeking your comments and feedback as the plans shape up and are confident that we will be ready for the work to start as soon as the money becomes available in 2018. This is proving a longer haul than any of us envisaged, but the benefits will last much longer.

Thanks

Many thanks to Julie White, Paula Brooks and Nigel Rose who valiantly removed the vandalised lights from the Society's Christmas tree and replaced them with last year's lights. It was an extremely hazardous task but carried out with gusto by the little team of volunteers.

New motorcycle bays

It would appear that the new motor cycle bay at the top of the square has proved useful - for motorcyclists. However, had the traffic planners planned for the pavement to be blocked by "over-hanging" mudguards?

Clearly the bay in the south-east corner of the square is an even greater success - for motorcyclists. Cars can no longer park in the bay, thus leaving a clear space for motorcycles to access the hard-standing in the garden. Since the day it was installed, there has not been one motor cycle parked in the bay.



Keep safe

Sussex Police have several ways to help you keep safe and keep you informed about local problems and crime.

Here is an example of the type of warning message you might receive:

"Action Fraud has received several reports from victims who have been sent convincing looking emails claiming to be from Amazon. The spoofed emails from "service@amazon.co.uk" claim recipients have made an order online and mimic an automatic customer email notification.

The scam email claims recipients have ordered an expensive vintage chandelier. Other reported examples include: Bose stereos, iPhone's and luxury watches.

The emails cleverly state that if recipients haven't authorised the transaction they can click on the help centre link to receive a full refund. The link leads to an authentic-looking website, which asks victims to confirm their name, address, and bank card information."

To register for this service, contact:
<https://www.intheknow.community/>

Funds, funds, funds

The Committee of the Society has researched funding that might help Clarence Square toward overcoming the severe anti-social behaviour from which it suffers.

The three funds which seem most likely are : Tesco's "Bags of Help" scheme (funded by the 'sale' of plastic shopping bags); the Police Community Safety fund (administered by the Police and Crime Commission) and finally the City Council which has already given £5000 toward the improvement of Norfolk Square.

If you know of any other fund which the Society could apply to to help improve our area in any way, please do let one of the Committee know (details overleaf).

Parking in St Margaret's Place

A change in parking arrangements in St Margaret's Place a year or so ago has meant that parking of vans and lorries has become chaotic and overwhelming for residents.



Following a meeting in December between a group of residents, the local councillors and the General Manager of the hotel, the following points were agreed:

A phone number will be placed prominently on the loading bay doors of the hotel so that a member of the hotel staff will be able to be present during unloading. This will ensure quiet unloading and that engines are turned off during deliveries.

Meeting with Sgt Chris Durrant

Society Secretary Suzanne Hinton was invited to a meeting between Cllr Tom Druitt and Sgt Chris Durrant. Sgt Durrant confirmed that police budgets have been greatly cut. For example, there is no longer a team of PCSOs dedicated to the area of the squares and Preston Street. However, he confirmed that the more reports of anti-social behaviour and crime the police receive, the more attention they will pay to this area.

As this is the case, the Society would like to encourage as much feedback to the Police as possible. When a crime is

in progress, a call to 999 is always answered promptly. Anti-social behaviour - which affects us all - does not often fall into this category. We all also know that it takes far too long to get through on the non-emergency 101 phone line.

The best way to help ourselves and the police is to e-mail: 101@sussex.pnn.police.uk

This will allow you to attach photos of the problem. It is, of course, free and will be used by police profilers to target problem areas.

A TV star

Not a person, but a place. The wonderful Regency Restaurant was at the heart of a filming frenzy on Wednesday 11 January. Look out for ... a potato crisps advert on one of the commercial channels. Not glamorous, admittedly, but fun.

And can you spot the fake street furniture? No prizes, but have your moment of Facebook fame by sending your answers to the Society's Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/regencybrighton/>



Regency Restaurant 11 January 2017

Planning

2a Regency Mews: Approved conversion to residential
Russell House, Russell Mews: There have been 16 objections to this development, mainly on the grounds that the designs allow serious overlooking of property in Castle Street, Regency Square and Russell Mews. The Society is supporting these objections.

38 Russell Square: There have been four objections to this application, in part because considerable excavation work at the rear (in St Margaret's Place) has been proposed. A garage will be demolished and a lower courtyard created. The Society has not commented on this application.

i360 New canopy: The Society, as well as the Regency Society, is objecting to the new metal structure on the upper deck of the i360 as it distorts the elegant symmetry of the two beautifully restored kiosks.

The Society would like to suggest that the canopy simply be moved a few metres to the south side of the ticket kiosk where it will be less visible from Regency Square.

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