

NEWSLETTER 310 February 2017

Bicentenary

According to most accounts, Regency Square was laid out in 1818. How should the Society celebrate this event?

So far, the only suggestion that has been received is to publish a small book(let) tracing the history of the square. This would be launched at an event attended by as many past residents of the square as possible as well as the Mayor of Brighton and Hove.

Do let us know your ideas via the website or Facebook.

Society Contacts

Chair: Trix Webber ☎ 01273 321858

✉ tew823@gmail.com

Treasurer: Nicola Floyd ☎ 078 3352 7270

✉ nicola.floyd@yahoo.com

Secretary: Suzanne Hinton ☎ 01273 321794

✉ s@hinton.clara.net

Facebook:

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

Website: www.regencybrighton.org

Planning

Valentine House Hotel, 38 Russell Square: The application to restore original features is still under consideration. Several neighbours of the property are concerned about the creating of a new basement level.

Russell House, Russell Mews: The application to convert the property into a large number of flats is still under consideration. There have been a large number of objections from neighbours

72-73 Western Road (the former Jamie Oliver shop backing on to Stone Street); Mecca Bingo Ltd have withdrawn their application to convert this property into a bingo hall.

Success

The Society put in an enforcement request for the removal of the unsightly extractor fans at 22 Clarence Square. Not exactly 'hey-presto' but finally the fans have gone.

However, it is now a question of 'one down, one to go'. The communal rubbish bins in the same area are ugly and often attract a skirt of rubbish around them. The Society has requested the re-siting of these bins more discretely in the Square - to no avail so far.



Should the society also press for false windows instead of the blind horrors which can be seen in the photo above? Clarence Square is, after all, part of a conservation area.

I'm so pretty, oh so (nearly) pretty

This is only a work in progress, but how delightful to see windows appear in the former shop at 35 Russell Square.

Do you have memories of using the shop before it closed in the 1970s? Or did your great-grandmother leave any memories of going into No. 41½ Russell Square where Mr Cowley was a fruiterer, greengrocer and dairyman in the 1860s?



Regency Square Regeneration

Apologies if you have been looking for more information about the plans to improve Regency Square. The Committee of the Society is working closely with the City Council. Sometimes progress can be quite slow as the funding of the works is very complex.

Please be reassured that considerable work is going on behind the scenes.



Dates for your diary

8 March

Sir Simon Jenkins will be giving a talk to the Regency Society in the Music Room of the Royal Pavilion at 7pm. Tickets £12.50. Full details and booking form: <http://regencysociety.org/antony-dale-lecture-2017.html>

20 March

Our AGM will be held on Monday at 7.30pm in the Metropole Hotel. A talk by Paul Campbell (Project Manager for open spaces in the city) will be followed by refreshments, a raffle and the formal business of the AGM.

Interested in helping the Society?

If you are interested in helping in the work of the Society, or standing for election to the Committee at the AGM, please do contact any one of the officers listed overleaf.

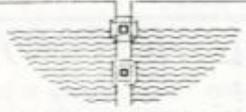
Old news but good news

Trix Webber, the Chair of the Society, was honoured with an invitation to be present at the official opening of the i360 in the presence of HRH the Duke of Edinburgh. For security reasons (!) Trix was not allowed to take photographs, so we will just have to imagine her watching the unveiling of this plaque.



Sounds Familiar?

Regency Square Area Society



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THE WEST PIER

The first part of the restored Pier should be open to the public by April or May this year, according to Don Phillips of the West Pier Trust.

The amount to be opened will be the part which is at present missing.

The Trust have made a planning application to erect temporary buildings on this part of the Pier. They hope that these can then be let out to small businesses such as cafes and souvenir shops. There will also be room for some open air traders' stalls.

The aim of course is to start generating some income from the Pier to help with the huge amount of restoration work still to be done.

One of the next projects to be tackled will be the restoration of the Gatehouse. The aim is to enlarge it to provide space for a Trust shop, a small historical exhibition and a tourist information desk. The work could cost around £60,000.



Feed the birds

Ironically, the "house" sparrow is in decline largely because of changing agricultural practices. The good news is that the decline is less in towns than in the countryside. One member of the Society is working hard to help build up the local population of sparrows who nest in the hedges of our squares.

By providing clean water and a well-balanced seed diet in his small garden, Nigel Rose has had the pleasure of seeing more and more sparrows locally - up to 25 birds at one time on his three feeders. If you would like to join Nigel in his project, please contact him at rosenigel@btinternet.com



As we all know, seagulls are another matter. They were even discussed in Parliament last week. The Society would like to discourage anyone from putting bird (or other) food on the pavements as this encourages the type of wildlife that should more rightly keep to its natural food of fish and insects.

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Tel: 01273 70 60 20 • www.mbebrighton.co.uk
Email: print@mbesbrighton.co.uk • 91 Western Road, Brighton, BN1 2NW